

Loop 202 freeway costs double

[By Doug Murphy](#)

September 26, 2008 - 10:11AM

Construction costs for the South Mountain Loop 202 freeway have more than doubled since the voters approved funding in 2004, according to figures released by the Arizona Department of Transportation on Thursday.

The freeway, which was originally budgeted at \$1.1 billion is now estimated to cost \$2.4 billion, a 40 percent increase in two years and a 120 percent increase in roughly five years.

At the same time, the estimated amount of money raised by Proposition 400, a twenty year half-cent sales tax dedicated to transportation plans from freeway expansion to light rail and mass transit improvements, has sunk by over \$1 billion in the tepid economy, from \$15.7 billion to \$14.5 billion.

That leaves the Maricopa Association of Governments, which manages the valley's transportation plans, with few options.

"We are going to have to make some adjustments in the program," said Erick Anderson, MAG's transportation director.

But it's not clear where the adjustments would occur. Anderson said that MAG staff will meet with valley elected leaders later this year to look at income and expense projections and then discuss options.